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Bristol Bay in the News June 28, 2013

While a letter from five Western Senators urging President Obama to protect Bristol Bay's jobs and economy continues to generate coverage, a House letter signed by nine members from Oregon, Washington, and California quietly attracted attention in *The Seattle Times*. Columnist Lance Dickie writes that "Bristol Bay's extraordinary fishing resources power commercial fishing and fish processing industries," and called the Pebble Mine proposal, "a truly bad idea, with profound environmental hazards that will exist for hundreds of years, is attracting the negative reviews its deserves."

Citing thousands of American jobs and Bristol Bay's substantial economic opportunities, the House letter urges President Obama "to move quickly to protect Bristol Bay from any open pit mining that would threaten the Pacific region's fishing economy. In addition, Congressman Rick Larsen sent his own letter to the President, writing: "I urge you to prevent development of any mining project that would have detrimental impacts on the jobs the Alaska fishing industry provides to small businesses in my district in Northwest Washington state and throughout the West Coast."

Recently, Pebble CEO John Shively made the rounds in Washington, D.C., pushing the mine's purported jobs and spending. While there, he offended commercial fishermen by saying that Alaska's fishing industry is in decline and that fishing in Southwest Alaska isn't "the answer." Commercial fishing is the largest private sector employer in Alaska and the state's seafood exports were up 12% in 2012 and it employs 12,000 people in Bristol Bay. Shively generated more controversy when he acknowledged Pebble would "impact some fish habitats," but the mine company would create "comparable" habitat. He also said he's confident he has a "mine plan" that works, though he

repeatedly has said elsewhere that Pebble has no mine plan to evaluate.

Senator Mark Begich made it clear that he does not support the recent extension of the EPA's comment period on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, because more time allows for more politics. Begich also told a Juneau town hall that he expects to reveal his own position on the mine shortly after the science is finalized.

Lastly, *The Herald* of Snohomish County, Washington, where a large number of Bristol Bay permit holders live, issued a powerful editorial opinion that Pebble should be a "non-starter." Referencing those local fishermen, the piece states: "All fear the proposed Pebble open-pit mine at Bristol Bay, threefold the size of Montana's infamous Anaconda mine. The scale and threat to the fishery has galvanized lawmakers, the seafood industry and Alaska natives who viscerally understand the potential for harm." For more information, visit savebristolbay.org

Shoren Brown

Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

Proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska stirs more opposition

Lance Dickie

The Seattle Times

Nine members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington and Oregon sent a letter this week to President Obama expressing their strong support for protecting the jobs and salmon resources in Alaska's Bristol Bay...[Click here to read more](#)

Senators Urge Caution on Pebble Mine, Partnership says Fishing on Decline

Peter Grantiz, APRN

Alaska Public Media

Pebble Partnership CEO John Shively is in Washington, D.C. this week lobbying Congress – which has no authority over whether the mine proceeds. The EPA could veto the mine outright if it deems the project too damaging to the region's watersheds...[Click here to read more](#)

Begich: Didn't support Pebble study extension

Becky Bohrer AP

Anchorage Daily News

JUNEAU, ALASKA — U.S. Sen. Mark Begich says he didn't support a federal decision extending the comment period on a study of large mining impacts in the Bristol Bay region.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency extended until June 30 the comment period on its revised watershed assessment...[Click here to read more](#)

Why Bristol Bay Matters

Editorial

Everett Herald

Alaska and Washington, children of a common ancestor. Long before Alaska gained statehood in 1959, Washington was economically and politically hitched to the last wilderness. When Sen. Warren Magnuson was defeated in 1980, the joke was given expression: Alaska had just lost its third senator, folks said...[Click here to read more](#)

Bristol Bay mine would hurt salmon, senators warn Obama

Kyung M. Song

The Seattle Times

WASHINGTON — Federal approval for an open-pit copper and gold mine near Alaska's Bristol Bay should weigh how it might endanger the \$1.5 billion commercial salmon fishing industry that flows from the pristine watershed 150 miles southwest of Anchorage...[Click here to read more](#)

Senators urge Obama to block Alaska mine

AP

News 24

Washington - Five Senate Democrats are calling on US President Barack Obama to consider blocking construction of a copper mine in Alaska, arguing it could jeopardise the pristine environment of America's biggest salmon fishery...[Click here to read more](#)

Senators tell Obama 'no' on Pebble

Cordova Times Staff

The Cordova Times

Five West Coast senators called on the Obama Administration on June 10 to consider the effect that permitting a mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, would have on the West Coast fishing industry...[Click here to read more](#)

Canadian Company: EPA is Evil, Let us Create Giant Alaska Mine

Hal Herring

Field & Stream

There is nothing like a good anti-federal-government advertising campaign to rally support for, well, almost anything...[Click here to read more](#)

Larsen to Obama: Stop Development of Bristol Bay mining Pebble Mine that would Hurt Washington Fisheries

Rep. Rick Larsen

WASHINGTON—Rep. Rick Larsen, WA-02, today urged President Obama to prevent the development of mining projects in Bristol Bay, Alaska, that would threaten the Washington state fishing industry...[Click here to read more](#)

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